



# SENATE BILL 730: The No Patient Left Alone Act.

2019-2020 General Assembly

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| <b>Committee:</b>     | House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House | <b>Date:</b>        | June 23, 2020       |
| <b>Introduced by:</b> | Sens. Daniel, Perry, Krawiec                       | <b>Prepared by:</b> | Theresa Matula      |
| <b>Analysis of:</b>   | PCS to Fourth Edition<br>S730-CSSH-43              |                     | Legislative Analyst |

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**OVERVIEW:** *Senate Bill 730 (S730) would enact the No Patient Left Alone Act to ensure visitation rights for hospital patients. The Proposed Committee Substitute amends Section 2 of the bill.*

**BILL ANALYSIS:** S730 contains the "The No Patient Left Alone Act" which ensures the visitation rights of hospital patients.

**Section 2** amends Chapter 131E, Article 5. Hospital Licensure Act, to add a new section [G.S. 131E-79.3] requiring the following:

- A hospital must allow a support person of the patient's choice to be present during the patient's stay, unless the individual's presence infringes on rights or safety of others or is medically or therapeutically contraindicated.
- A hospital must have written policies and procedures regarding the visitation rights of patients, including those that set forth clinically necessary or reasonable restrictions or limitations that a hospital may need to place on those rights for the clinical restriction or limitation. The hospital is also required to inform each patient or support person, of the visitation rights including any clinical restriction or limitation.

**Sections 3** requires the Division of Health Service Regulation, DHHS, to develop and disseminate the free informational materials explaining the visitation rights provided by the bill.

**Section 4** appropriates \$5,000 in nonrecurring funds for the 2020-2021 fiscal year from the General Fund to the Division of Health Service Regulation, DHHS, to develop and disseminate the materials explaining the visitation rights.

**Section 4.1** is boilerplate language providing that (i) the State Budget Act is not superseded by this act and (ii) other bills appropriating funds remain in effect.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Section 4 would become effective July 1, 2020 and the remainder of the bill would become effective when it becomes law.

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